CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-readable medium having thereon a data structure identifying parameter value combinations for use to test a software module, the data structure comprising:

  (a) a first section that includes a set of testing parameters listed in a parameter order;

  (b) a second section that includes a first set of parameter values listed in an order such that each value is positioned in the same order as the corresponding parameter is listed in the parameter order; and

  (c) a third section that includes a second set of parameter values listed an order such that each value is positioned in the same order as the corresponding parameter is listed in the parameter order.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the testing parameters are marked up with a markup language.

3. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the markup language comprises the extensible markup language.

4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first section, second section and third section are elements of a table.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the table comprises additional sections that include sets of parameter values.

6. A method of processing testing data, the method comprising:

(a) extracting parameter value combinations from a data file marked up with a markup language;

(b) transmitting the parameter value combinations to a software module test engine.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data file comprises a table containing a plurality of test cases and each test case comprises a set of parameter value combinations.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein (a) comprises extracting the plurality of test cases from the data file.

9. The method of claim 7, further including creating an object from a test case parameter value combination.

10. The method of claim 6, further including changing the format of the parameter value combinations before (b).

11. The method of claim 6, further including:

(i) receiving a table of parameter value combinations at a spreadsheet application; and

(ii) converting the table to the data file with a spreadsheet plug-in.

12. The method of claim 6, further including validating the parameter value combinations by comparing the parameter value combinations to a set of rules.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein parameter value combinations are validated on demand prior to (b).

14.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 6.

15.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

16.   A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 12.

17.   A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable components comprising:

an import component that extracts parameter value combinations from a data file marked up with a markup language;

a test object creation module that creates an object to test a software module with the parameter value combinations.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the markup language comprises the extensible markup language.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the import module validates the parameter value combinations.

20.   A method of generating a table of parameter value combinations, the method comprising:

receiving at a spreadsheet application a plurality of parameter value combinations; and

formatting the plurality of parameter value combinations into a table marked up with a markup language.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein elements of the table represent test cases.